



What's New

Plus 50 Initiative Expands to Help Older Workers: Community Colleges Intensify Efforts to Help Baby Boomers Train for New Jobs, Maintain Economic Stability

With unemployment figures on the rise and the economic recession wreaking havoc on retirement accounts, the Plus 50 Initiative at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is spearheading a movement by community colleges to help workers age 50 and over train for new jobs and sharpen their marketable skills.

Reflecting changing economic circumstances for many older workers who thought they were poised for retirement but now must remain on the job, the new expansion focuses specifically on the initiative's training, retraining and career development area. The expansion partners existing and more experienced Plus 50 colleges with dozens more community colleges that now become "affiliates" of the Plus 50 Initiative.

Century College will be a Learning Partner for nine Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., community colleges. Century will host a regional meeting for Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Anoka Technical College, Dakota County Technical College, Hennepin Technical College, Inver Hills Community College, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Normandale Community College, North Hennepin Community College and Saint Paul College to work on Plus 50 Initiative program implementation in the workforce training and retraining area.

Western Dakota Technical Institute in Rapid City, S.D., will host a conference for community colleges near National Parks to form partnerships and disseminate lessons learned from their innovative pilot program working with the National Park Service to train plus 50 adults to serve as seasonal rangers and interpretive guides.

Three Plus 50 Initiative community colleges in Washington - **Clark College, Clover Park Technical College and Community Colleges of Spokane** - will host a regional conference in Vancouver, Wash., focused on how to start a Plus 50 Initiative program, involving as many as 30 community colleges from Washington and Oregon.

St. Louis Community College (STLCC) will be a Learning Partner for **Metropolitan Community College- Longview** in Lee's Summit, Mo. STLCC and this Kansas City area community college share regional concerns and have similar economic and educational demographics that make them ideal partners.

Central Florida Community College in Ocala, Fla., will serve as a Learning Partner for **Rose State College** in Midwest City, Okla. Both of these colleges are expanding training and retraining opportunities for plus 50 students seeking to stay in the workforce.

Joliet Junior College in Illinois will serve as a Learning Partner for neighboring **Moraine Valley Community College**, which will expand its efforts to help unemployed plus 50 workers who want to stay on the job. This partnership pairs the nation's first community college with the second largest community college in Illinois.

Tech Trends: Plus 50 Adults Increasingly Use Social Media to Engage
[Facebook's popularity is growing most rapidly among women over age 55](#), according to [Inside Facebook](#), which analyzes trends on the well-known social networking site. There are currently about 1.5 million females over age 55 on Facebook, representing a 550% increase over six months ago. Membership among people under 25 grew by less than 20% in the same period of time. [Their migration to Facebook is shaking up the online site](#). "The perception is that Americans over 50 only dabble on the Internet, but we are finding that they are increasingly spending time online becoming involved in robust Internet activities, such as online communities," said Jeffrey I. Cole, director of the Center for the Digital Future at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication [when talking with Gatehouse News Service](#). AACC has profiles on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). A [video showing an intergenerational computer training program in action at Central Florida Community College](#) is uploaded to AACC's YouTube channel.

Funding Opportunity: Caregiver Training at Community Colleges
Encouraging the development of new and novel programs to train family caregivers and in-home care workers is the purpose of the 2009 Community Caregiver Training Institute. Sponsored by the International Longevity Center-USA and the Caregiving Project for Older Americans with support from the MetLife Foundation, grant proposals are being accepted from community colleges and other two-year institutions. The purpose of the initiative is to provide training, promote skill development, advance the quality of care, and provide opportunities for career development. The deadline for submissions is June 8, 2009. [Get the RFP and more information](#).

Web Updates: Student Stories, Annual AACC Convention Presentations, Practical Tips for Colleges, Financial Aid Resources for Students
Read about the plus 50 student journey through our student stories online! [Nick Corso turned to Clover Park Technical College](#) to re-train for a job that helps others. Public relations materials and Plus 50 Initiative presentations from AACC's convention are also [available online](#). [Practical tips are offered to help community colleges](#) seeking to start a plus 50 program, including the top 10 things a community college can do to be a plus 50 friendly college. See [financial aid tips for students](#) on the website.

News from the Colleges

Plus 50 Initiative Featured on South Dakota Public Broadcasting
Plus 50 students at [Western Dakota Technical Institute](#) talked to their NPR station about becoming park rangers, their field trips to National Park Service sites, and how they wanted make a difference in their communities. [Listen to the story on South Dakota Public Broadcasting and see photos](#).

[Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program](#)

LEARNING

Training the Trainer of the Mature Learner

Basic Skills Bulletin (United Kingdom)

Plus 50 adults learn in different ways than do younger adults and teens, notes the author, and it's time for instructors to adjust their teaching styles to accommodate the adult learner. In this brief newsletter article, the author discusses how plus 50 students tend to be self-motivated to learn. He notes that these self-directed learners often are focused on the immediacy of problem-solving and bank on their experience. [Read the article](#).

TRAINING and RE-TRAINING

Intergenerational Workplaces: Tips & Help

The Herald-Dispatch

Generation gaps are real, but people can work together effectively in the workplace if they know how to build on their generational assets. Workplaces are growing more diverse and baby boomers are staying on the job longer. This news article reports on a workshop designed to help employers better manage generational differences in the workplace. [Read the article](#).

VOLUNTEERING and SERVICE
'BOOMNET' Capturing the Baby Boomer Volunteers: A Research Project
Into Baby Boomers and Volunteering

Australia Department of Premier & Cabinet

With the first baby boomers now reaching their fifties, the government of Australia hired researchers to examine what motivates plus 50 adults to volunteer and what hinders them from doing so. One baby boomer interviewee said, "I went along and thought I'd do some volunteer work, and when I got there I found it was a group of silver-haired old dears sitting around sewing and chatting. That's not for me – I was the youngest there." The report drives home the point that organizations need to reevaluate how they manage baby boomer volunteers and jettison methods used in the past to engage older adults. [Read the study.](#)

The American Association of Community Colleges is a national association representing close to 1,200 community, junior and technical colleges nationwide. Community colleges are the largest and fastest-growing sector of higher education, serving close to 12 million students each year. AACC is headquartered in Washington, D.C. See www.aacc.nche.edu.

The Atlantic Philanthropies are dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Atlantic focuses on four critical social problems: aging, disadvantaged children and youth, population health, and reconciliation and human rights. Programs funded by Atlantic operate in Australia, Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States and Viet Nam. To learn more, please visit www.atlanticphilanthropies.org.

[Forward to a Friend](#)



AACC - American Association of Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

This email has been scanned for all viruses by the MessageLabs
Email Security System.